

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A cell suspension for immediate dispersion to a graft site on a patient produced according to a method comprising the steps of:

(a) physically and/or chemically dissociating cellular stratum in a split or full thickness skin tissue sample obtained from a patient ~~to provide cells suitable for grafting to the patient,~~ wherein the split or full thickness skin tissue sample comprises dermis, epidermis, and a dermal-epidermal junction therebetween;

(b) harvesting cells from the dermis and the epidermis at the dermal-epidermal junction, wherein the cells are harvested in the presence of a nutrient solution that is free of serum xenogenic to said patient and suitable for direct application to the graft site, wherein the harvested cells comprise viable keratinocyte basal cells, melanocytes and fibroblasts autologous to the patient,

the harvested cells having the potential to include cellular congregates; and

(c) filtering the harvested cells in the nutrient solution to remove cellular congregates greater than 200 $[[\mu\text{M}]]\mu\text{m}$,

wherein the resulting cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site comprises viable keratinocyte basal cells, melanocytes and fibroblasts harvested at the dermal-epidermal junction, and is free of serum xenogenic to said patient and free of cellular congregates greater than 200 $[[\mu\text{M}]]\mu\text{m}$, and

~~wherein the resulting cell suspension comprises a composition of viable cells autologous to said patient, and wherein said composition has a cell population comprising keratinocyte basal cells, melanocytes and fibroblasts, the cell population of the composition and the skin tissue sample being comparable.~~

30-33. (Canceled)

34. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 29, the suspension being distributed on a patient tissue site undergoing tissue grafting.

35. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 29 comprising the further step of:
(d) administering the suspension directly to a region on the patient that requires a cell graft.

36. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 35 wherein the tissue sample is obtained from the patient that requires a cell graft.

37. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 35 wherein the cell suspension is distributed relatively evenly over the graft region.

38. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 35 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively.

39. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 35 wherein the cell suspension contains cells present in a ratio to each other comparable to those in the donor sample.

40. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 39 wherein the cells include keratinocyte basal cells, Langerhans cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes.

41. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 40 wherein the cells are substantially viable.

42. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 37 wherein the cell suspension is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site.

43. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 35 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively from a tissue sample for the patient that requires a cell graft, contains

cells present in a ratio to each other comparable to those seen in the donor sample, and is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site to provide an even distribution over the graft region.

44. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension produced according to a method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a tissue sample from a site on a donor in need of a tissue graft;
- (b) physically and/or chemically dissociating and removing cellular stratum from cells present in the sample;
- (c) harvesting the cells in the presence of a nutrient solution;
- (d) distributing the suspension on a site of the donor as an autologous tissue graft.

45. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 44 wherein the suspension is substantially free of cell conglomerates.

46. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 44 wherein the suspension is substantially free of xenogenic serum.

47. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 44 wherein the cell suspension is distributed relatively evenly over the graft region.

48. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 47 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively.

49. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 44 wherein the cell suspension contains cells represent in a ratio to each other comparable to those seen in the donor sample.

50. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 49 wherein the cells comprise keratinocyte basal cells, Langerhans cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes.

51. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 50 wherein the cells are substantially viable.

52. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 47 wherein the cell suspension is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted on to the tissue site.

53. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 44 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively, contains cells present in a ratio to each other comparable to those seen in the donor sample, and is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site to provide an even distribution over the graft region.

54. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension produced by a method comprising obtaining cells from a patient in need of a tissue graft, providing the cells in nutrient solution in a manner that is substantially free of cellular stratum, xenogenic serum, and cell conglomerates, the suspension being distributed in apposition to the site of the recipient as a tissue graft.

55. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 54 wherein the suspension is distributed relatively evenly over the graft region.

56. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 54 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively.

57. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 54 wherein the cell suspension contains cells present in a ratio to each other comparable to those seen in the donor sample.

58. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 57 wherein the cells comprise keratinocyte basal cells, Langerhans cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes.

59. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 58 wherein the cells are substantially viable.

60. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 55 wherein the cell suspension is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site.

61. (Currently amended) A cell suspension for immediate dispersion to a graft site on a patient, comprising cells harvested from a split or full thickness skin tissue sample obtained from ~~[[a]]~~the patient, wherein the split or full thickness skin tissue sample comprises dermis, epidermis, and a dermal-epidermal junction therebetween, the cell suspension comprising:

(a) ~~a composition of~~ viable cells harvested from the dermis and the epidermis at the dermal-epidermal junction of said skin tissue sample and autologous to said patient, said ~~composition having a cell population~~ viable cells comprising keratinocyte basal cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes, ~~the cell population of the composition and the skin tissue sample being comparable~~; and

(b) a nutrient solution free of serum xenogenic to the patient and suitable for direct application to the graft site on the patient,

wherein said cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site comprises viable keratinocyte basal cells, melanocytes and fibroblasts harvested at the dermal-epidermal junction, and is free of cellular congregates greater than 200 μm .

62. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 61 wherein the suspension is distributed relatively evenly over the graft region.

63. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 61 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively.

64. (Canceled)

65. (Previously presented) A suspension according to claim 61 wherein said composition of cells comprises keratinocyte basal cells, Langerhans cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes.

66. (Canceled)

67. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 62, wherein the cell suspension is sprayed, spread pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site.

68. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension produced by a method sufficient to provide the cells in nutrient solution, substantially free of cellular stratum, xenogenic serum, and cell conglomerates, the suspension serving as a graft in apposition to the body of a recipient in need of a tissue graft.

69. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 68 wherein the suspension is distributed relatively evenly over the graft region.

70. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 69 wherein the cell suspension is obtained perioperatively.

71. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 69 wherein the cell suspension contains cells present in a ratio to each other comparable to those seen in the donor sample.

72. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 71 wherein the cells comprise keratinocyte basal cells, Langerhans cells, fibroblasts and melanocytes.

73. (Withdrawn) A suspension according to claim 72 wherein the cells are substantially viable.

74. (Withdrawn) A cell suspension according to claim 69 wherein the cell suspension is sprayed, spread, pipetted, or painted onto the tissue site.

75. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 61, wherein the viable cells are harvested in a method using a solution comprising an enzyme.

76. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 75 wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of trypsin, trypsin-EDTA, dispase, collagenase, thermolysin, pronase, hyaluronidase, pancreatin, elastase, and papain.

77. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 76 wherein the enzyme is trypsin.

78. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 77 wherein the trypsin is present in the solution in an amount that is between 5 and 0.1% per volume of the solution.

79. (Previously presented) A cell suspension according to claim 77 wherein the trypsin is present in the solution in an amount that is less than 0.05% per volume of the solution.

80. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein harvesting comprises scraping cells from a surface at the dermal-epidermal junction.

81. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the nutrient solution comprises a physiological saline.

82. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein the resulting cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site is immediately dispersed to the graft site without *in vitro* culturing.

83. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 29 wherein a concentration of the resulting cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site is modified before dispersion to the graft site.

84. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 61 wherein the viable cells are harvested by scraping cells from a surface at the dermal-epidermal junction.

85. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 61 wherein the nutrient solution comprises a physiological saline.

86. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 61 wherein said cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site is immediately dispersed to the graft site without *in vitro* culturing.

87. (New) A cell suspension according to claim 61 wherein a concentration of said cell suspension for immediate dispersion to the graft site is modified before dispersion to the graft site.